



**MINUTES – METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2015, 4:00 P.M.
PIMA COUNTY LIBRARY LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM,
101 N. STONE AVE., TUCSON, ARIZONA**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Bill Ardern, Dr. Mary Jan Bancroft, Dennis Barger, Dr. Kent Barrabee, Leshawn Bowen, Jen Darland, Dr. David Doré, Deborah Embry, George Favela, Guillermo Figueroa, Steve Freeman, Javier Herrera, Teri Laguna, Rafael Meza, Jo Riester, Dr. Alan Storm, Dr. June Webb-Vignery, James Wiltbank, Pat Wiedhopf, Maggie Zheng.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Dr. Linda Arzoumanian, James Cook, Richard Elias, Jennifer Flores, Molly Gilbert, Paul Lovelis, Amber Mathewson, Vicky Mullins, Regina Romero, Dr. Daisy Rodriguez Pitel, Jennifer Sprung, Dr. Kasey Urquidez.

NON-COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Edward Nossem, David Rodriguez.

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER – PAT WIEDHOPF
The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.
- 2.0 ROLL CALL – PAT WIEDHOPF
Roll call was conducted; a quorum was established.
- 3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – PAT WIEDHOPF
The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was recited by all attendees.
- 4.0 APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 21, 2015 MEETING MINUTES – PAT WIEDHOPF
Motion to approve: George Favela
Second: Bill Ardern
Motion carried 19-0.
APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 30, 2015 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – PAT WIEDHOPF
Motion to approve: Guillermo Figueroa
Second: George Favela
Motion carried 19-0.
- 5.0 APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT – PAT WIEDHOPF
Motion: George Favela
Second: Rafael Meza
Motion carried 19-0.

6.0 DISCUSSION OF MEC STATEMENT REGARDING ARIZONA LEGISLATURE
K-12 FUNDING PLAN – PAT WIEDHOPF

At the October 30, 2015 MEC Special Meeting, a Committee composed of Bill Ardern, Dr. Kent Barrabee, Jen, Darland, Amber Mathewson, and Jim Cook crafted a statement that would be voted on as a Resolution, which was discussed at today's meeting. Bill Ardern was chosen to moderate the discussion.

The Resolution addressed both Proposition 123 that would be on the May 2016 ballot, and a proposed amendment to the Arizona State Constitution, SCR 1001. These would involve the use of State Land Trust funds for K-20 education funding, and end the current lawsuit by education entities against the State for restoration of education funding. The proposed MEC Resolution states various aspects of the proposed legislation's effect on education and the state's need for economic and workforce development through adequate education funding. The Resolution ends with the statement, "**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** that the community express its significant concern that the legislature and governor are disregarding the funding mandates of the Arizona Constitution, resulting in a threat both to the continuing viability of public education, and, thus, to the future economic health of Arizona."

Various viewpoints were presented in favor or opposition to the text of the Resolution. It was decided that more information needs to be gathered and that the Resolution be tabled.

7.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS – PAT WIEDHOPF

7.1 Budget – Bill Ardern

The MEC Budget is tracking appropriately; all current funding proposals have been funded, as outlined in the MEC November 2015 Executive Director's Report. The MEC has received a 4-year grant from the Helios Education Foundation (see Agenda Item 7.6, RCAC).

7.2 Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon – Dr. June Webb -Vignery

The 25th Annual Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon will take place on Friday, April 29, 2016 at the Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel, 7350 S. Nogales Highway. We have 3 tables: Gold Sponsor: Pima County School Superintendent's Office; Table Sponsors: Jim Click Automotive Team; University of Arizona Enrollment Management. The Lifetime Achievement Committee has selected John Pedicone as the Lifetime Achievement Honoree, and recommended General Ron Shoopman for the Education Advocate Award, which the MEC Executive Board has approved. The Teacher Honoree is Jennifer Anglin, Flowing Wells Junior High School, Flowing Wells Unified School District. We will be resending the Sponsor Letters in the near future; MEC Commissioners are encouraged to contact their constituencies to procure tables.

7.3 Appointments –Deborah Embry

Tucson Mayor & Council has approved the reappointment of Jim Cook as Mayor & Council Appointee representing Parks/Recreation/ Housing.

Motion to approve: George Favela

Second: Dr. Kent Barrabee

Motion carried 19-0.

The YAC/TTC has elected Leshawn Bowen to replace Diego Martinez Barrera as the second of two MEC Youth Commissioners.

Motion to approve: Dr. Kent Barrabee

Second: Deborah Embry

Motion carried 19-0.

Wells Fargo Bank has recommended Luis Manjarrez to replace Aaron Myers as the Mayor & Council appointee representing Libraries, Museums, and Arts; his name was submitted to the City Boards, Commissions and Committees for placement on a future Mayor & Council agenda for approval.

7.4 YAC/TTC – Maggie Zheng (not present; Dr. June Webb-Vignery in her absence)

The 2015 Teen Town Hall took place on October 23rd at Catalina High School; 190 students and 35 elected officials and community leaders attended the event. As in previous years, the main topic brought forth by students was the lack of adequate education funding, the loss of qualified teachers, lack of adequate instructional materials and technology, and the deterioration of infrastructure at the school sites.

Eleven members of the YAC/TTC also attended an Education Town Hall on the evening of October 19th at Catalina High School. This was a panel discussion about the state funding for education crisis, and was attended by approximately 500 adults and students from across the community. The panel featured Southern Arizona legislative representatives.

Elected officials visits to the YAC/TTC meetings continue; Ward 5 Council Member Richard Fimbres will attend tonight's (November 18) meeting, and Ward 1 Council Member Regina Romero will attend the December 2nd meeting.

7.5 Issues –George Favela

No action.

7.6 Regional College Access Center – David Rodriguez

The Helios Education Foundation has committed approximately \$5.2 million to the College Knowing and Going Initiative over four years to fund all juniors taking the ACT exam in 19 Arizona school districts, implementation of college access activities including application to a postsecondary institution, FAFSA completion, and a multi-year research survey. A Helios funding of \$1,100,000 administered by College Success Arizona through the Arizona College Access Network (AzCAN) will provide for coordination through three sites located in southern, central, and northern Arizona. They are: Metropolitan Education Commission's Regional College Access Center (RCAC) for the Southern region; Arizona College Access Network (AzCAN) for the Central region; and the Northern Arizona College Resource Center for the Northern region.

The following Southern Arizona school districts and schools are participants:
 FLOWING WELLS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Flowing Wells, Sentinel Peak High Schools;
 SUNNYSIDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Desert View, Sunnyside High Schools;
 TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Catalina, Cholla, Palo Verde, Project More, Pueblo, Rincon, Sabino, Sahuaro, Santa Rita, Tucson, University High Schools;
 VAIL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Andrada Polytechnic, Cienega, Empire, Pantano, Vail Academy High Schools;
 NOGALES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Nogales, Pierson Vocational High Schools;
 CASA GRANDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Casa Grande Union, Casa Verde, Desert Winds, Vista Grande High Schools.

We expect that if completed activities will lead to the following outcomes:
 Short Term – A college-going culture for all students is prevalent in high schools. Secondary leaders set high expectations and create rigorous, college-going environments for all students; Long Term – Increase the percentage of students, especially underserved students, in Arizona graduating prepared for college and career, and completing postsecondary education. The College Knowing and Going Initiative has received recognition from the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics through the 2015 Commitment to Action.

7.7 Key to Employment Symposium – Ed Nossem

The Key to Employment for the 21st Century Symposium will take place on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at the U of A Student Union. The date of the 2016 Key to Employment Symposium is Wednesday, February 3, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the University of Arizona Student Union Ballroom.

We will have access to the North & South Ballrooms, as well as the 4 side rooms, which will be used for workshop presentations and additional exhibitor space. The content of the workshops is being discussed, although we will definitely have RCAC workshops. It was decided that we will NOT provide a hospitality station this year, but will provide coffee and water in the Diamond Atrium instead, which should save us over \$300.00.

SPONSORS: The Thomas R. Brown Family Foundation has sponsored the event for \$2,500.00. So far we have \$6,000.00 in received or committed payments.

EXHIBITORS: Most of the Exhibitors who presented last year will be returning, and we are working on some new ones. The YAC/TTC will provide input as to which types of industries they think would be of interest to youth. SCHOOL REGISTRATION: We have contacted 48 schools and have 170 students from 6 schools (City High School, Marana, Presidio, Southern Arizona Community Academy, Toltecalli, and Tucson High Schools) registered so far. Many more schools expressed serious interest in attending. After the Thanksgiving holidays we will start to get some solid commitments from other schools.

8.0 CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No action.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT – PAT WIEDHOPF

Motion to approve: Deborah Embry

Second: Guillermo Figueroa

Motion carried 19-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.